







KNOCK

KNOCK



WHO'S COMING BY
AT THIS HOUR?



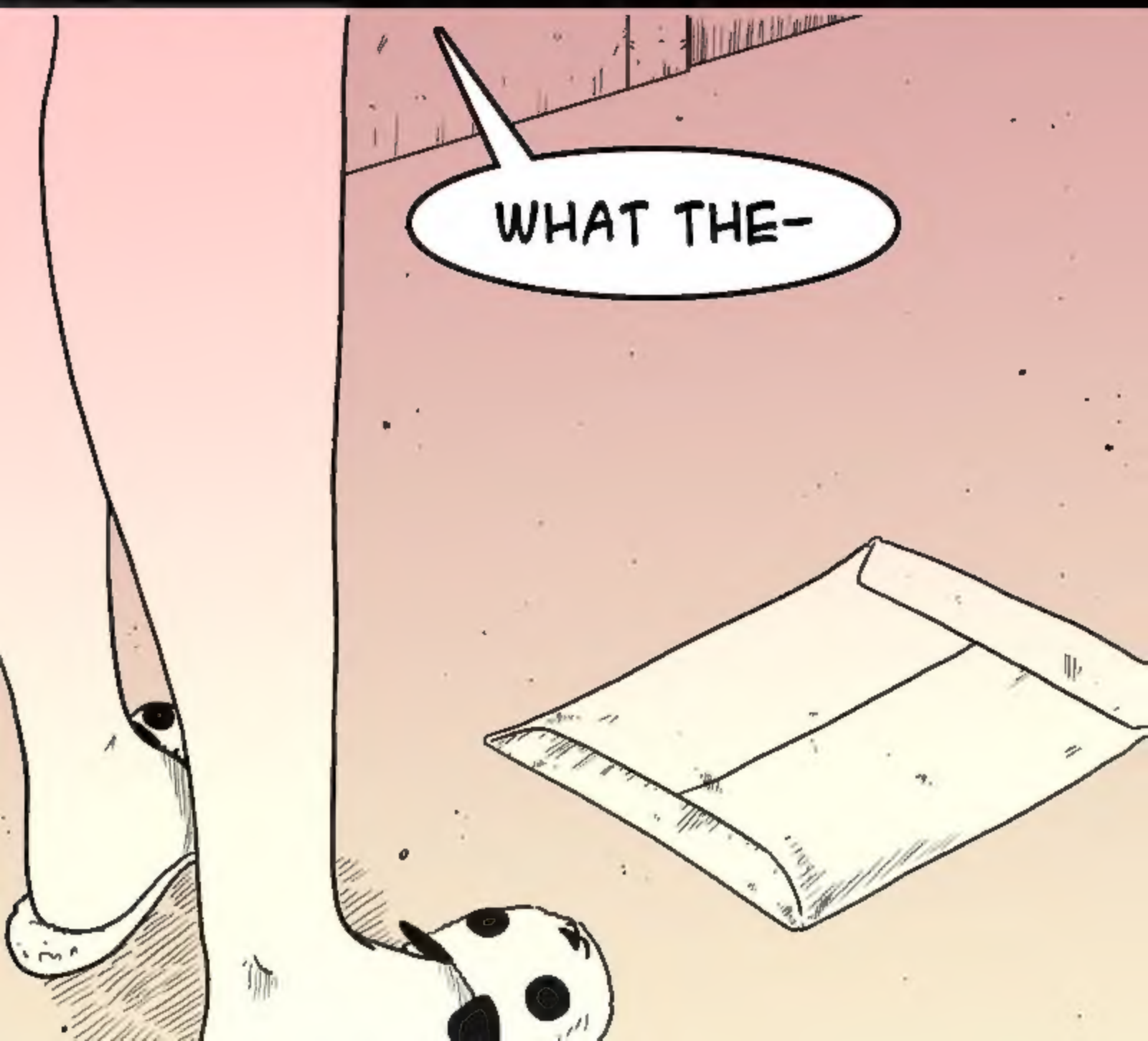
HELLO?



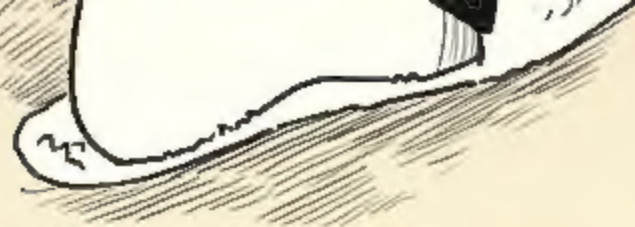


MAYBE...IT WAS A
NEIGHBOR'S DOOR?

I WAS SURE IT WAS
MINE, THOUGH...



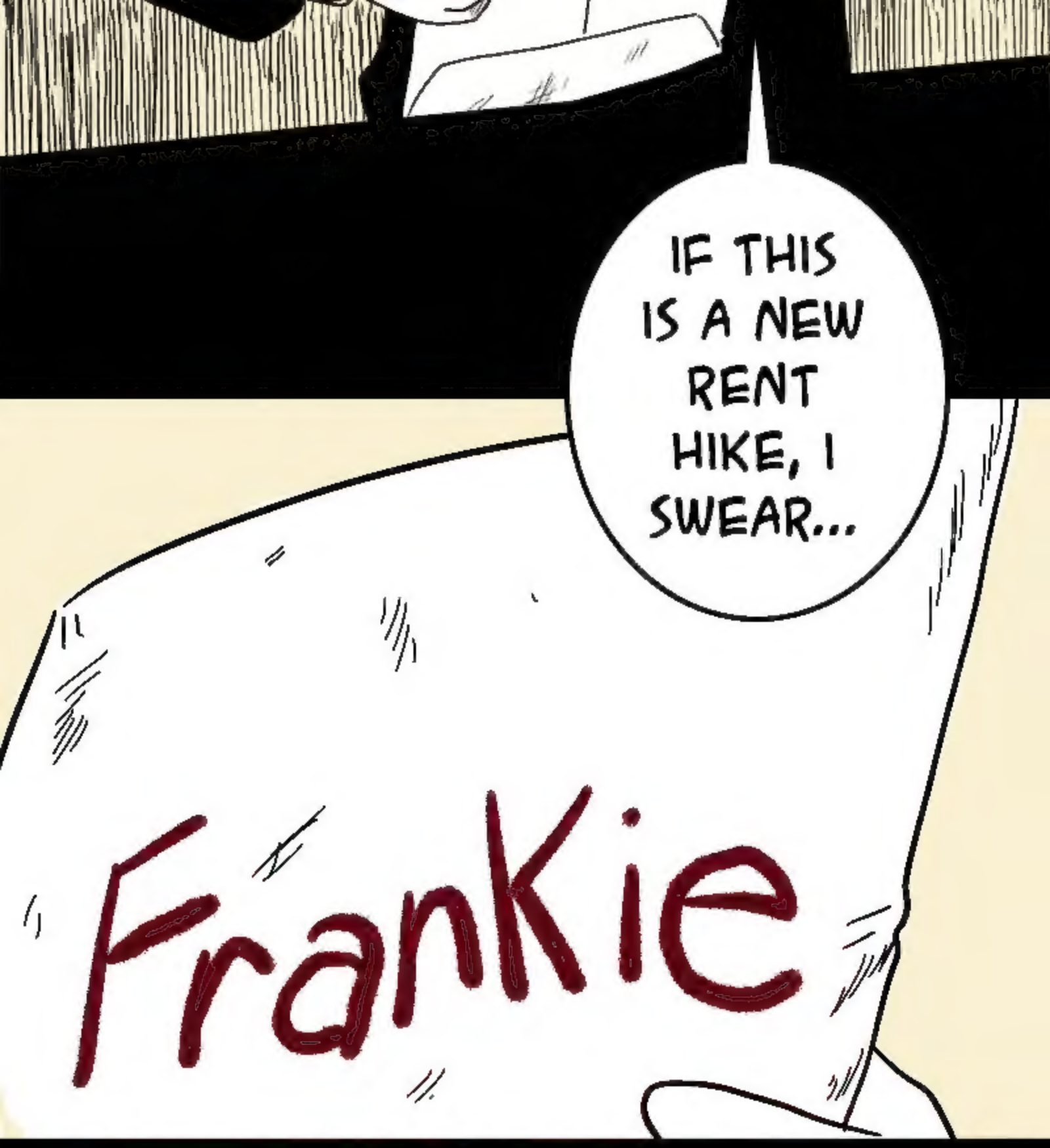
WHAT THE-



HUH,

NO MAIL
STAMP OR
ANYTHING.

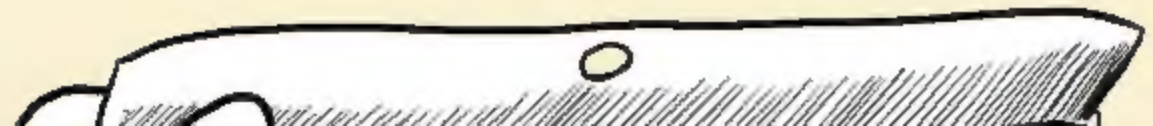


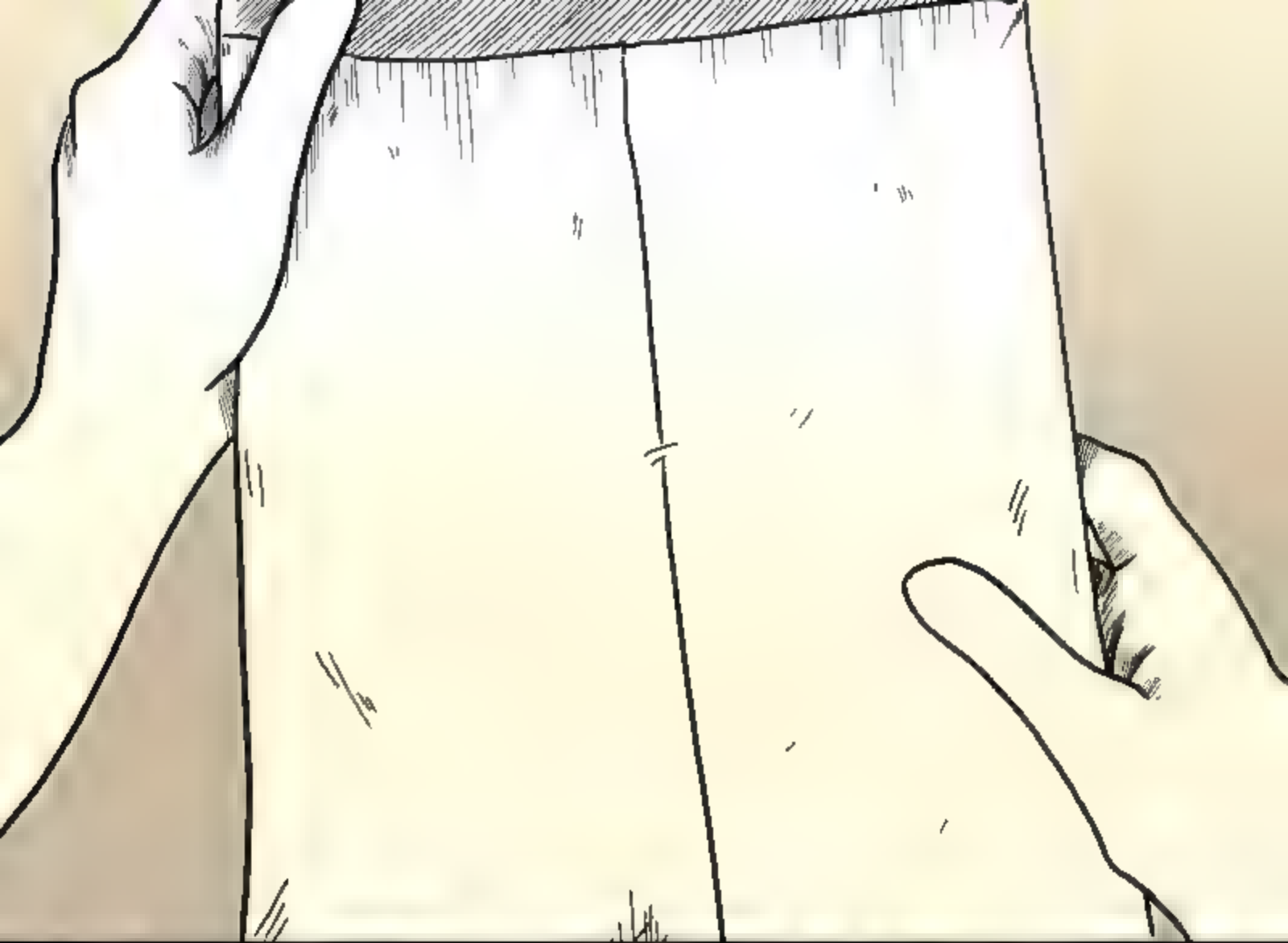
A comic panel featuring a character's torso, drawn with simple black outlines. The character is wearing a white shirt. A large, white, oval-shaped speech bubble is positioned in the upper right quadrant of the panel. The background is a solid yellow color. The character's head is partially visible at the top edge of the frame.

IF THIS
IS A NEW
RENT
HIKE, I
SWEAR...

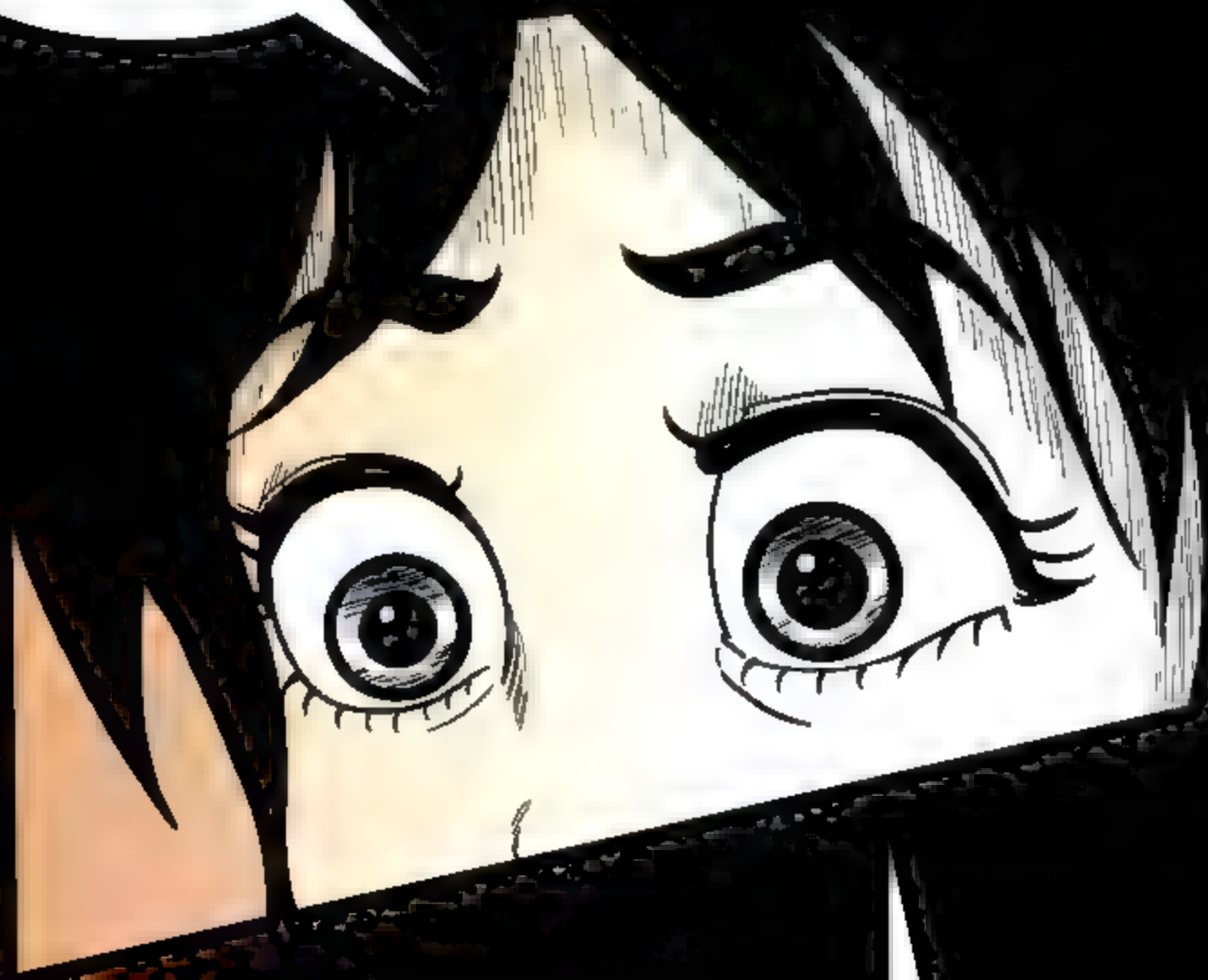
Frankie

FLIP

A small, white, rectangular object, possibly a coin or a card, is shown in the process of being flipped. It is tilted upwards, and a small circle indicates the point of rotation. The object is set against a yellow background.



WHA...

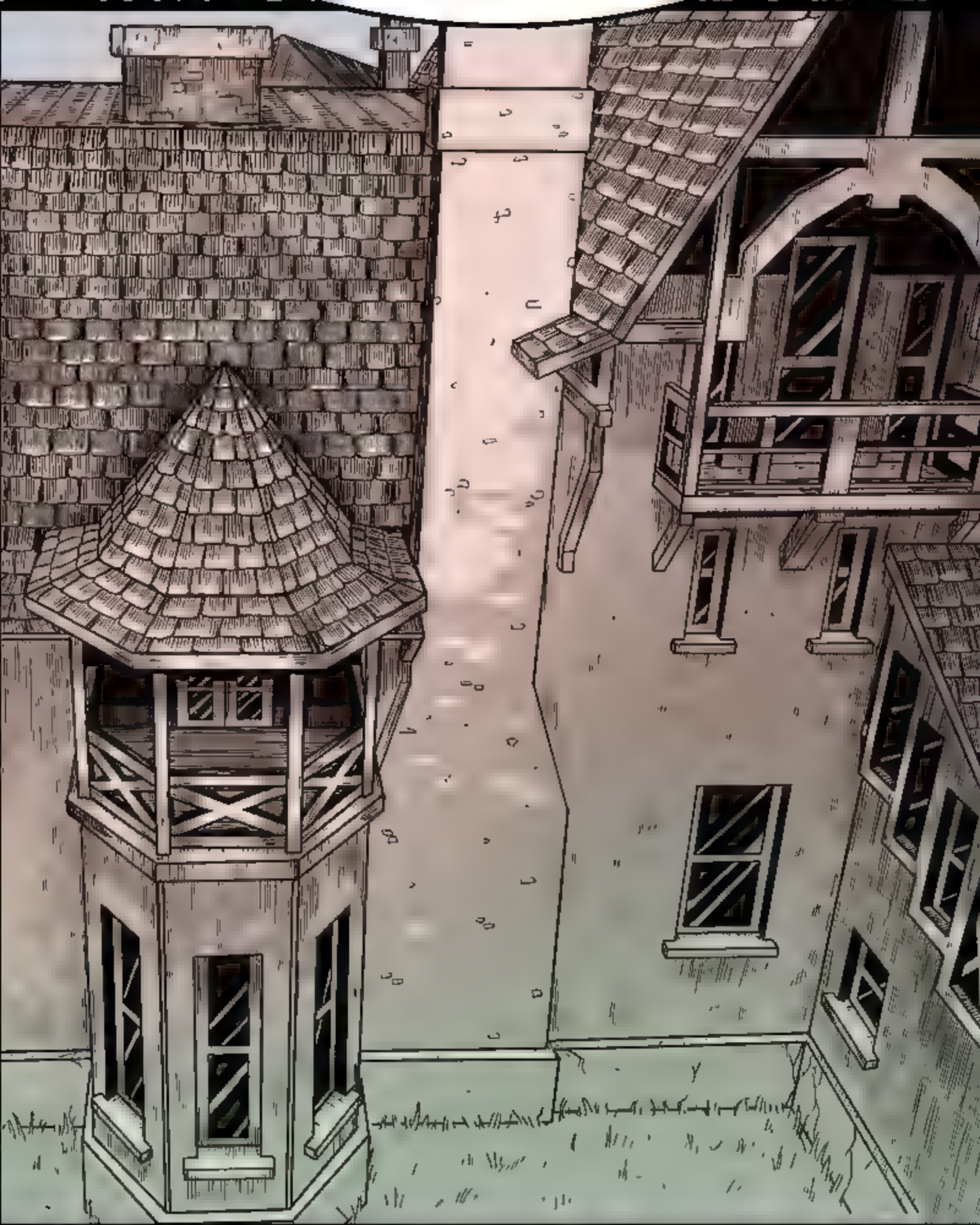


WHAT..?

Marble House

part two

I'M TELLING YOU, IT HAD
NO ADDRESS OR STAMP
ON IT. IT DIDN'T COME
THROUGH THE MAIL.



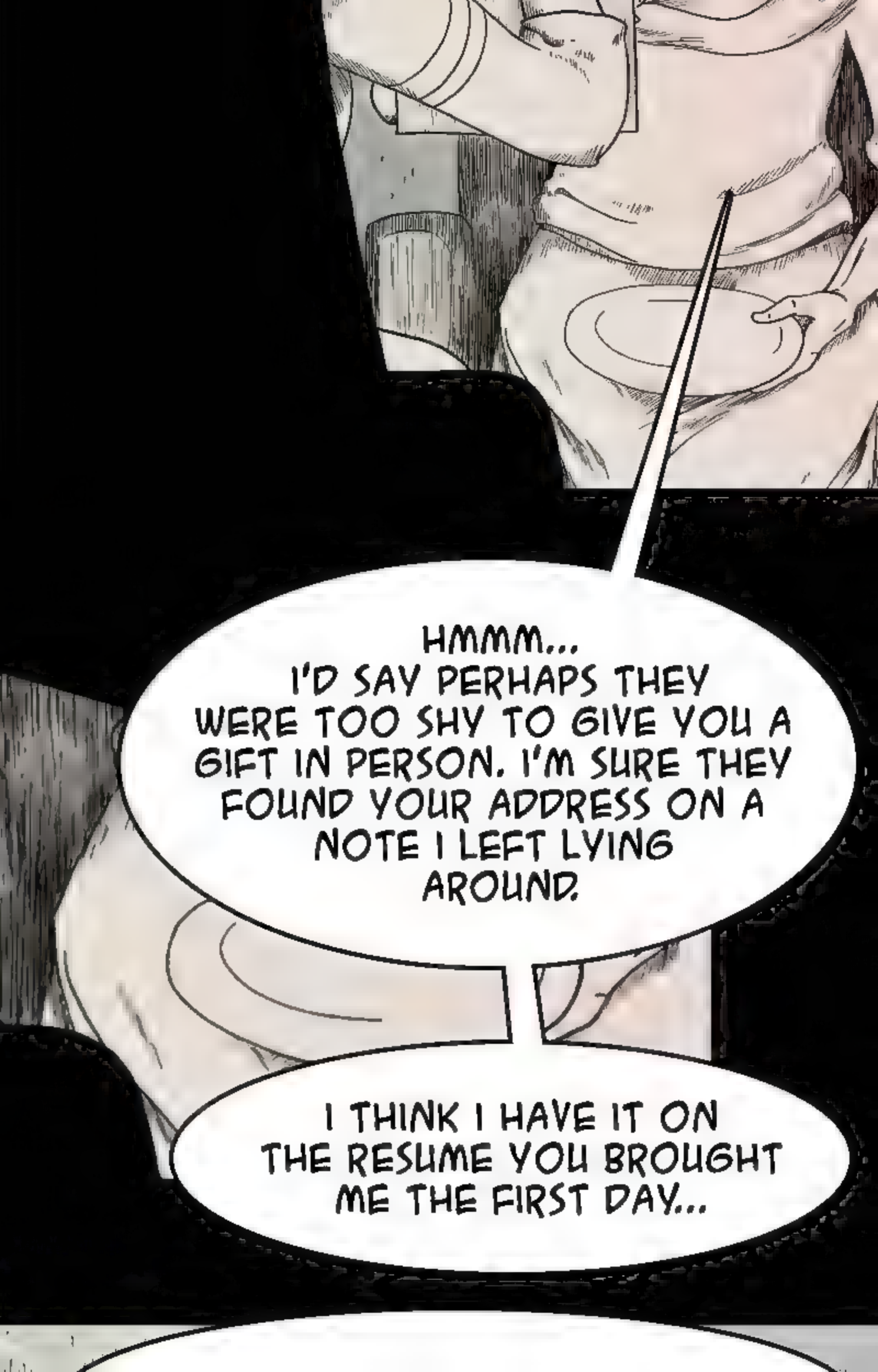
ONE OF THE CHILDREN MUST
HAVE BROUGHT IT TO MY
HOUSE LAST NIGHT!

OH, WELL NOW WHY WOULD
THEY DO THAT? THEY COULD
JUST AS EASILY HAVE GIVEN
IT TO YOU HERE.

AND THEY KNOW NOT
TO LEAVE THE HOUSE.

WELL WHO ELSE WOULD
LEAVE ME A KID'S DRAWING?
LOOK AT IT...DON'T YOU
THINK IT'S JUST A LITTLE
BIT STRANGE?

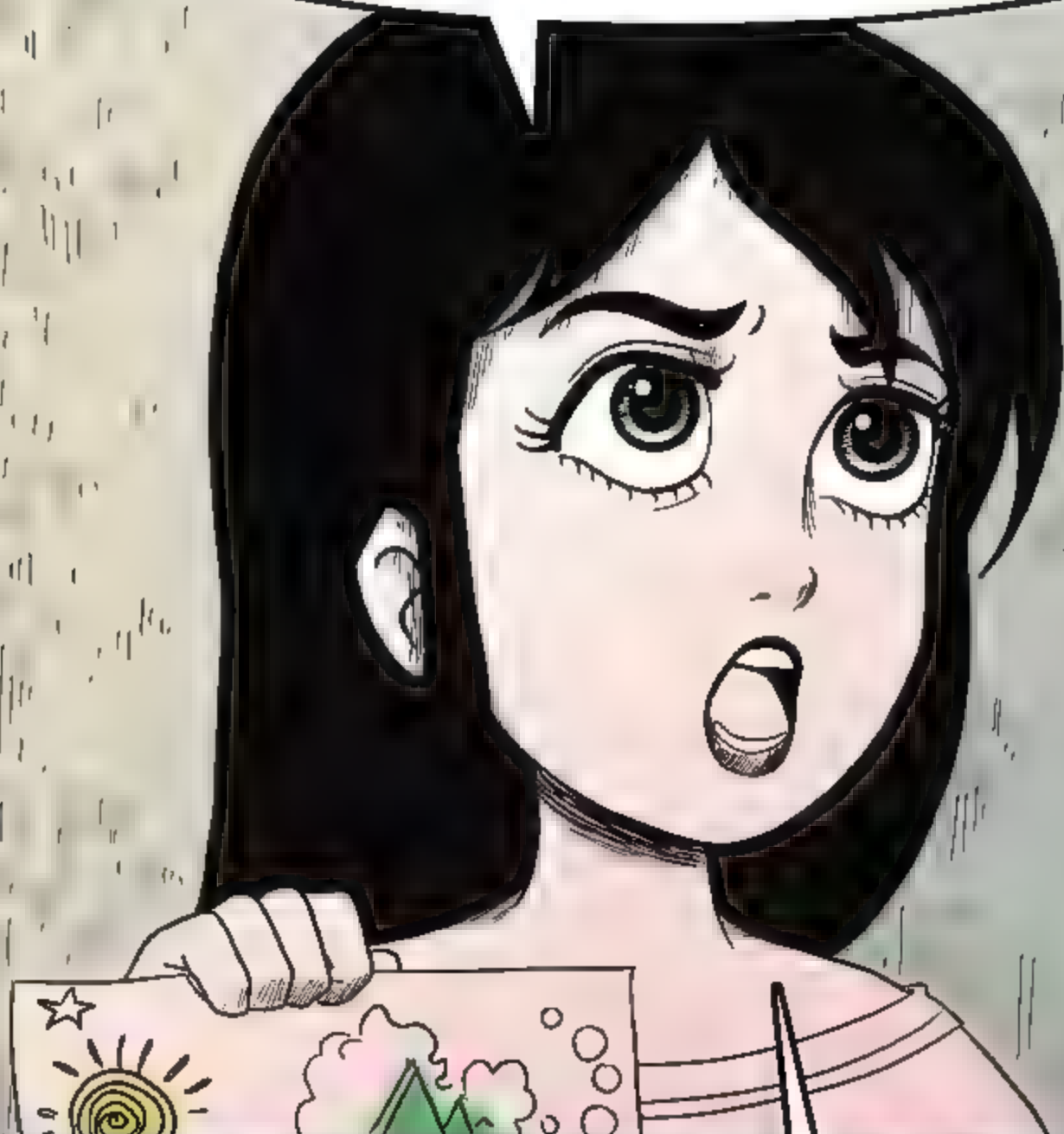




HMMM...
I'D SAY PERHAPS THEY
WERE TOO SHY TO GIVE YOU A
GIFT IN PERSON. I'M SURE THEY
FOUND YOUR ADDRESS ON A
NOTE I LEFT LYING
AROUND.

I THINK I HAVE IT ON
THE RESUME YOU BROUGHT
ME THE FIRST DAY...

YOU MEAN THEY **WALKED** ACROSS
TOWN? BY THEMSELVES?

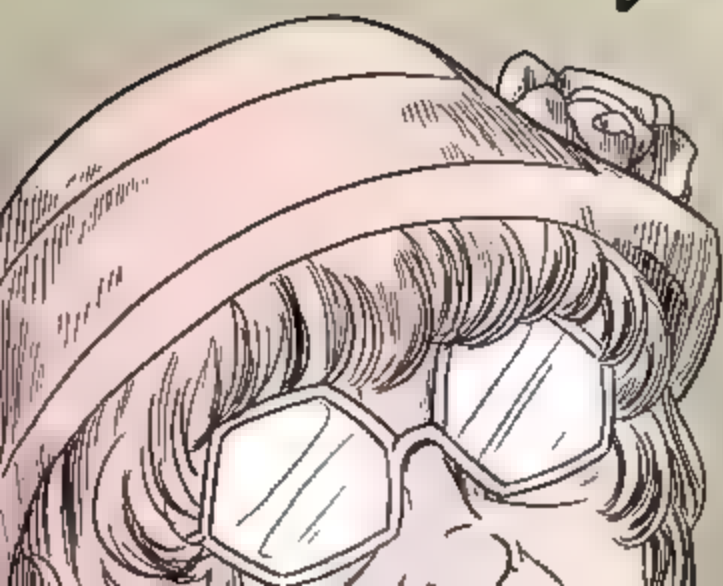


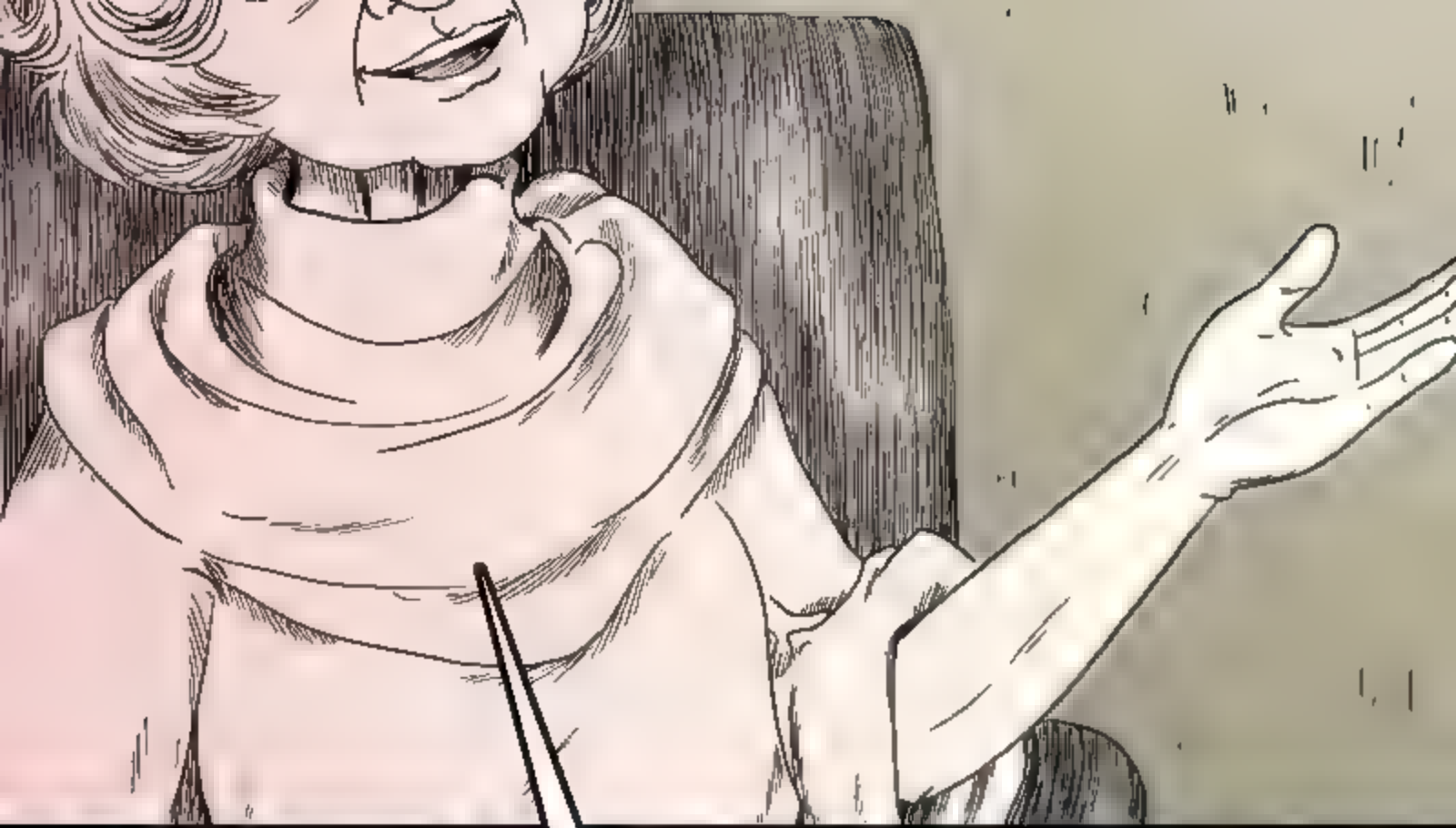
THEY SHOULDN'T BE DOING
THAT, IT'S DANGEROUS!

I JUST THINK IT'S A LITTLE...
BIZARRE, AFTER ALL.

WELL, I'LL BE SURE
TO FIND OUT WHICH ONE
OF THEM DID IT AND GIVE THEM A
VERY STERN LECTURE, I PROMISE. THEY
CAN'T GO WALKING ABOUT TOWN
WITHOUT A GROWN-UP, OR LEAVING
THE HOUSE WITHOUT ME EVEN
KNOWING IT.

BUT YOU KNOW, I
AM VERY GLAD THEY
GAVE IT TO YOU,
FRANKIE.





IT'S BEEN SO HARD FOR THE
KIDS TO OPEN UP TO ANYONE,
ESPECIALLY STRANGERS.

THEY MUST REALLY LIKE YOU!





A hand-drawn illustration of a telephone handset, shown from a side profile. The handset is dark with a cross-hatched texture. Two speech bubbles are attached to it. The top bubble is connected to the earpiece area, and the bottom bubble is connected to the mouthpiece area by a vertical line. The background is dark and textured.

HELLO, I'M CALLING FOR THE
LANDLORD?

THIS IS FRANKIE PARKER.



YEAH, OVER IN "C" BUILDING.
THIRD FLOOR.

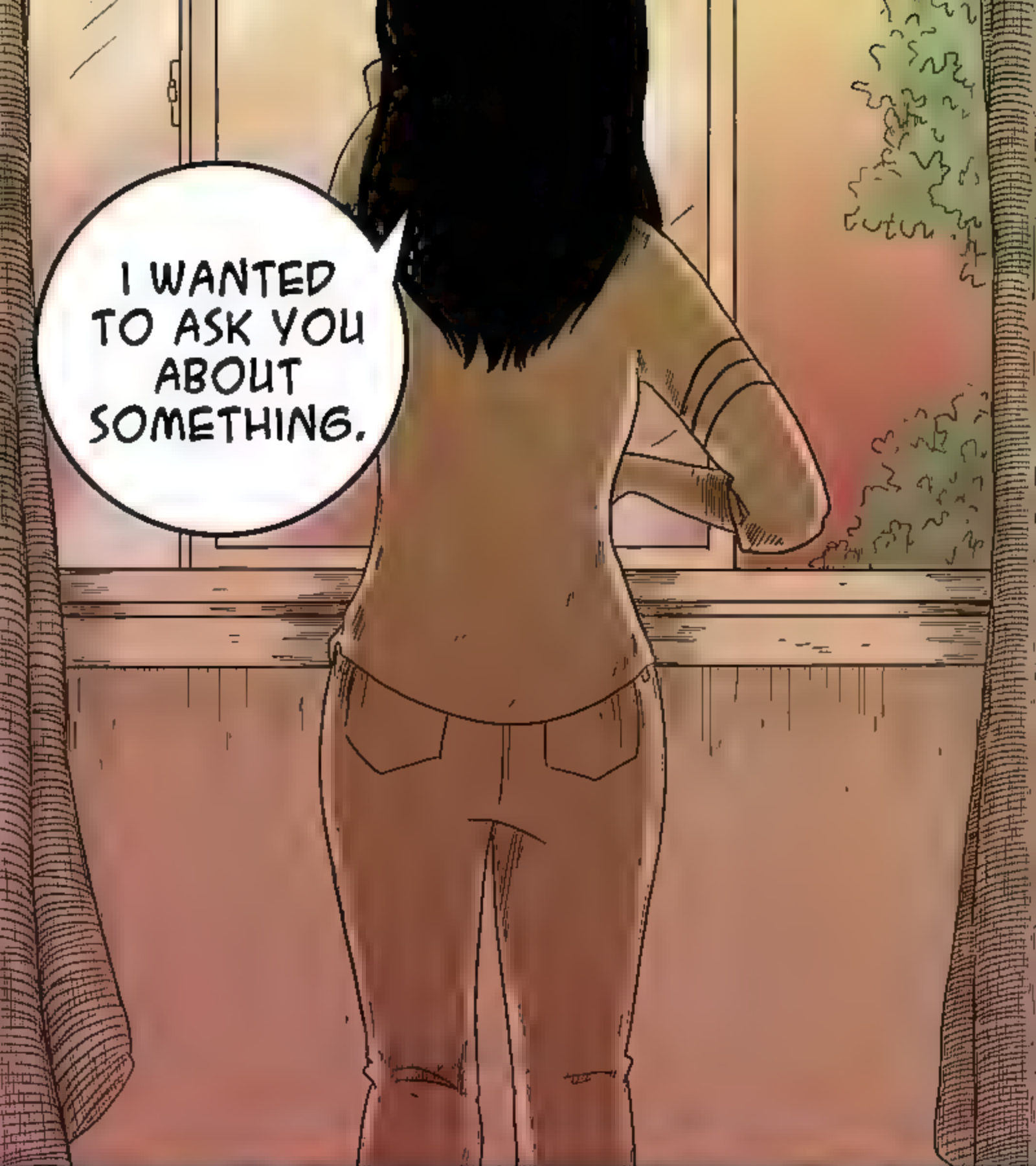
MM-HMM.

NO NO, EVERYTHING'S
FINE.



THANK YOU. YEAH, IT'S
BEEN...YEAH.

MM-HMM. I APPRECIATE
THAT, REALLY.



I WANTED
TO ASK YOU
ABOUT
SOMETHING.

YOU KNOW WHEN YOU MOVED
JEREMY OWENS' STUFF
OUT OF HIS APARTMENT?



YOU SAID YOU'D HOLD IT
FOR A WHILE UNTIL YOU
COULD FIND SOME RELATIVES
TO COME CLAIM HIS
BELONGINGS...



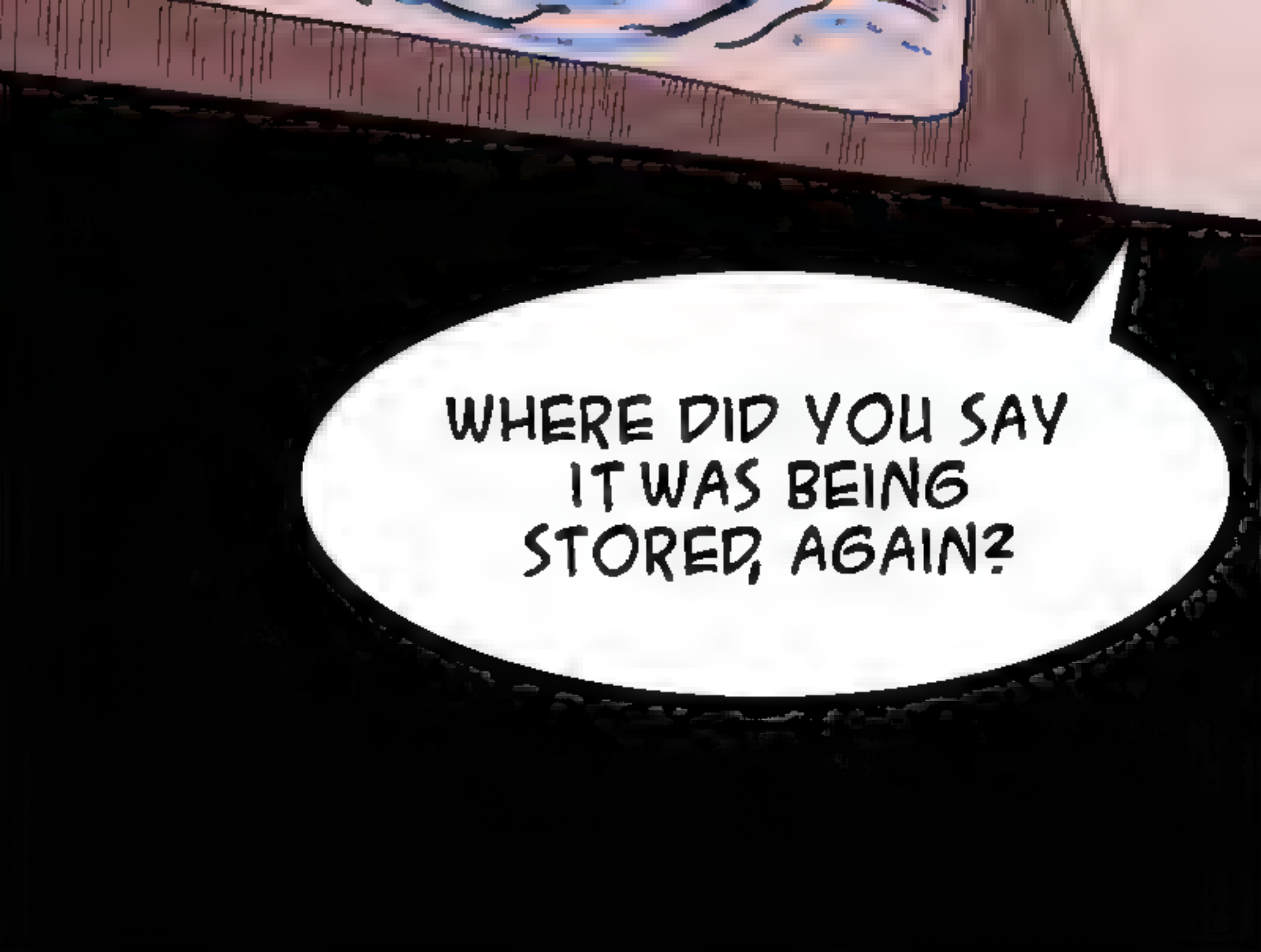
MM-HMM.

I SEE.

I WAS JUST

WONDERING...





WHERE DID YOU SAY
IT WAS BEING
STORED, AGAIN?

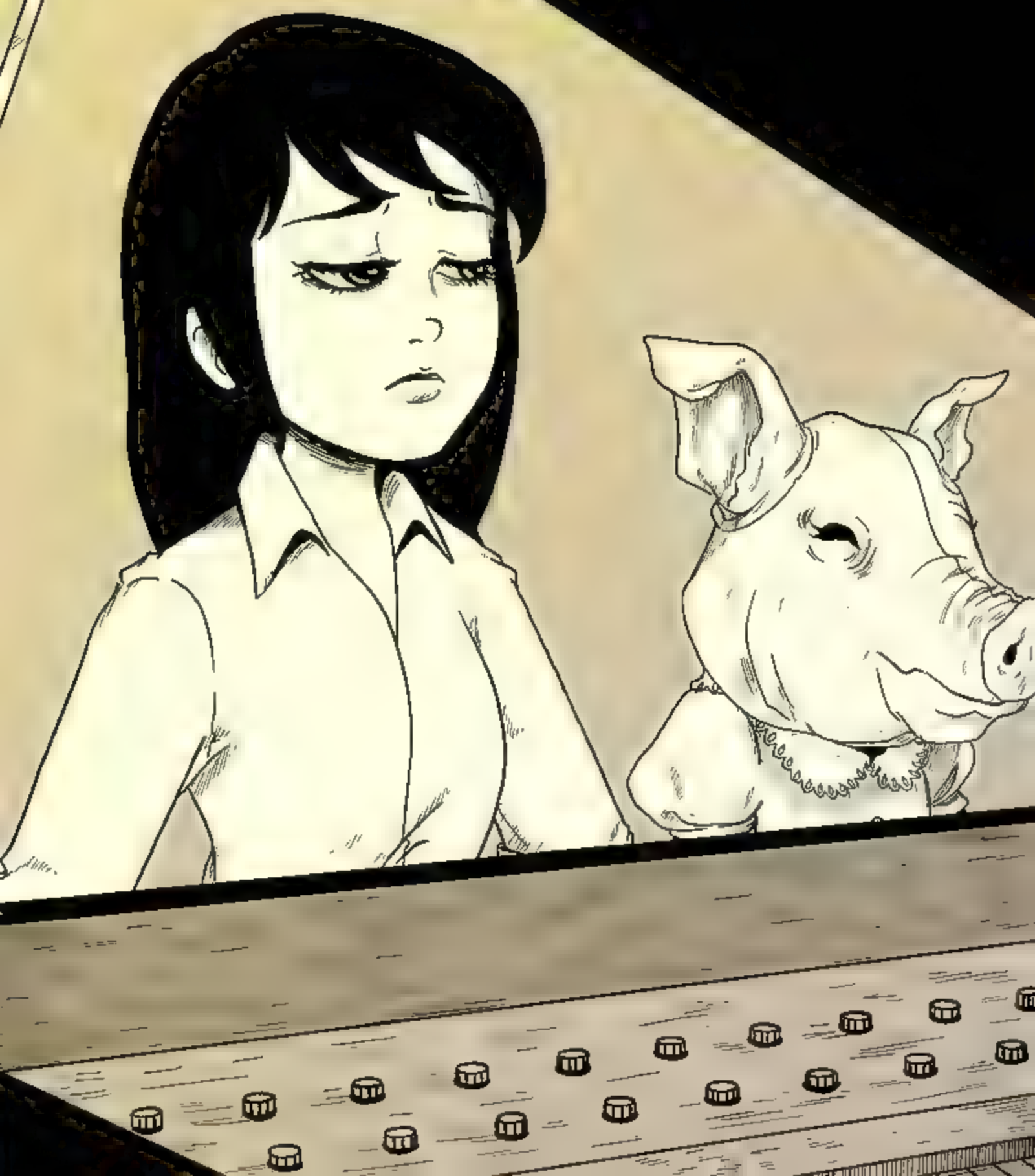
IT WAS THREE DAYS LATER
WHEN WE RESUMED LESSONS.

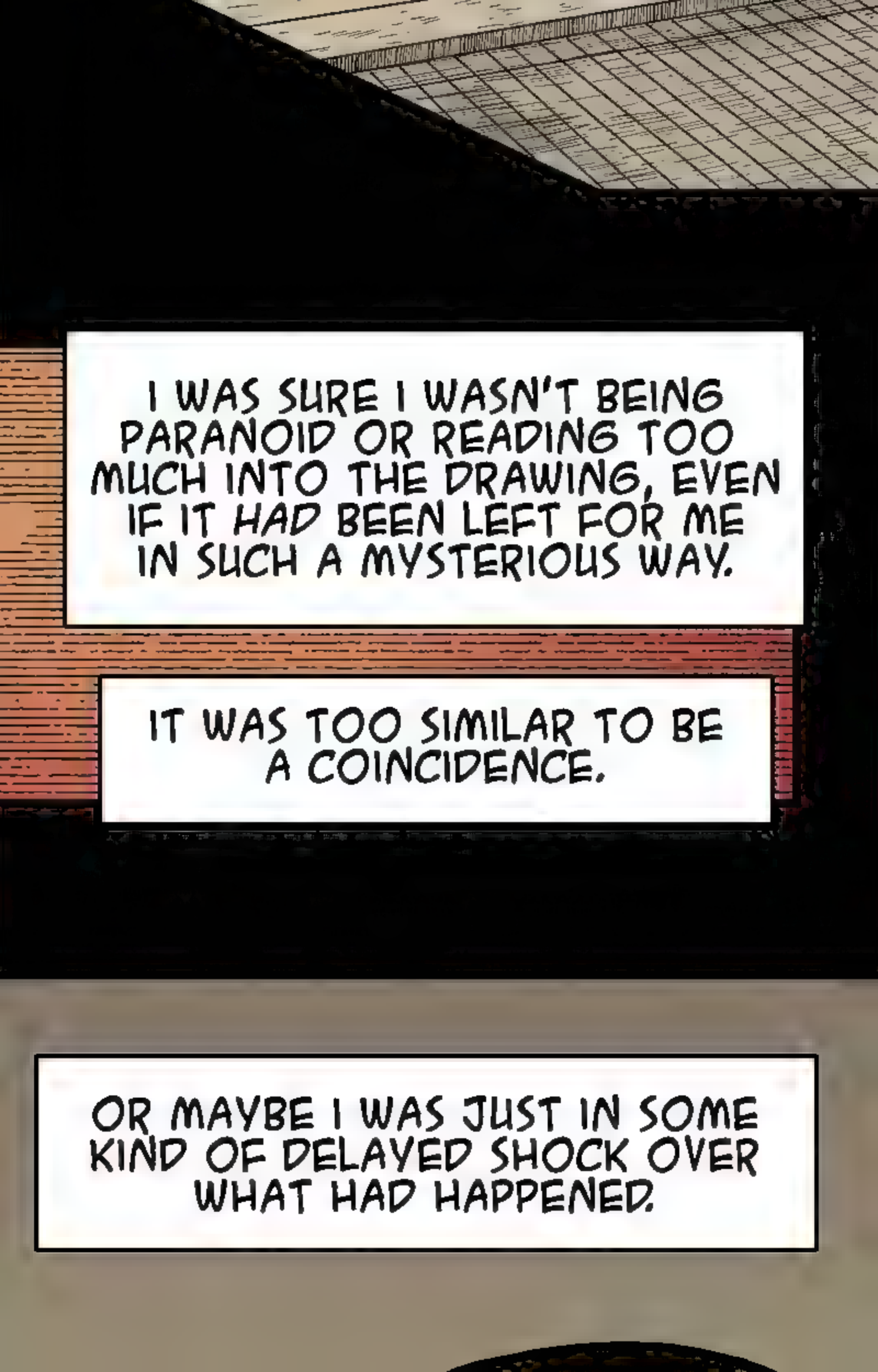


WE NEVER DID FIND OUT WHICH
OF THE KIDS WENT TO MY
HOUSE THAT NIGHT.



SOMETHING ABOUT MRS.
DAVIDS' EXPLANATION JUST
DIDN'T SIT RIGHT WITH ME.

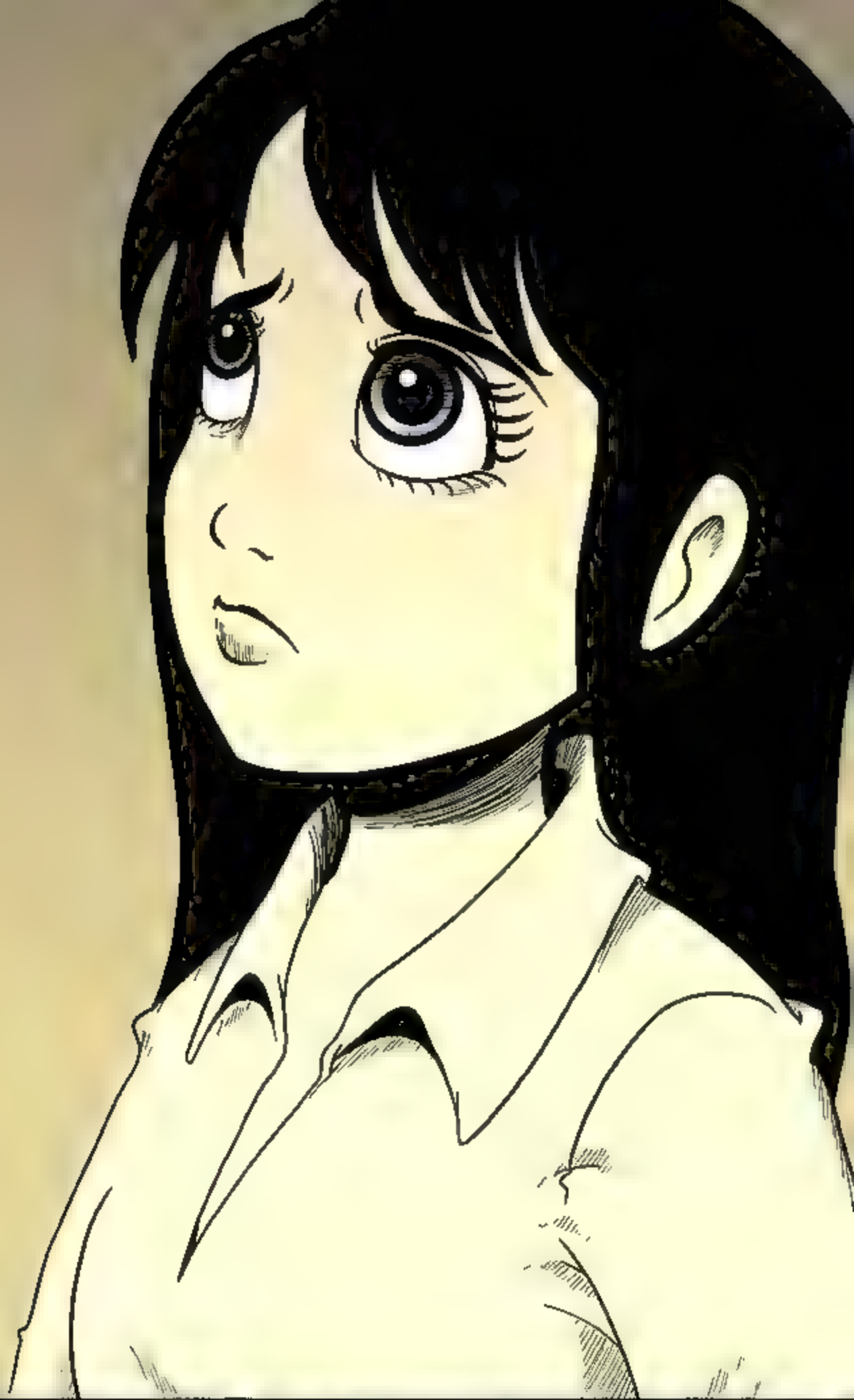




I WAS SURE I WASN'T BEING
PARANOID OR READING TOO
MUCH INTO THE DRAWING, EVEN
IF IT HAD BEEN LEFT FOR ME
IN SUCH A MYSTERIOUS WAY.

IT WAS TOO SIMILAR TO BE
A COINCIDENCE.

OR MAYBE I WAS JUST IN SOME
KIND OF DELAYED SHOCK OVER
WHAT HAD HAPPENED.



WAS IT PTSD? IS PARANOIA
A SYMPTOM OF THAT?

BUT IT JUST...



IT LOOKED SO MUCH
LIKE HOW JEREMY...
LIKE WHAT HAPPENED
THAT DAY.

OR DID IT? WAS IT JUST ME?

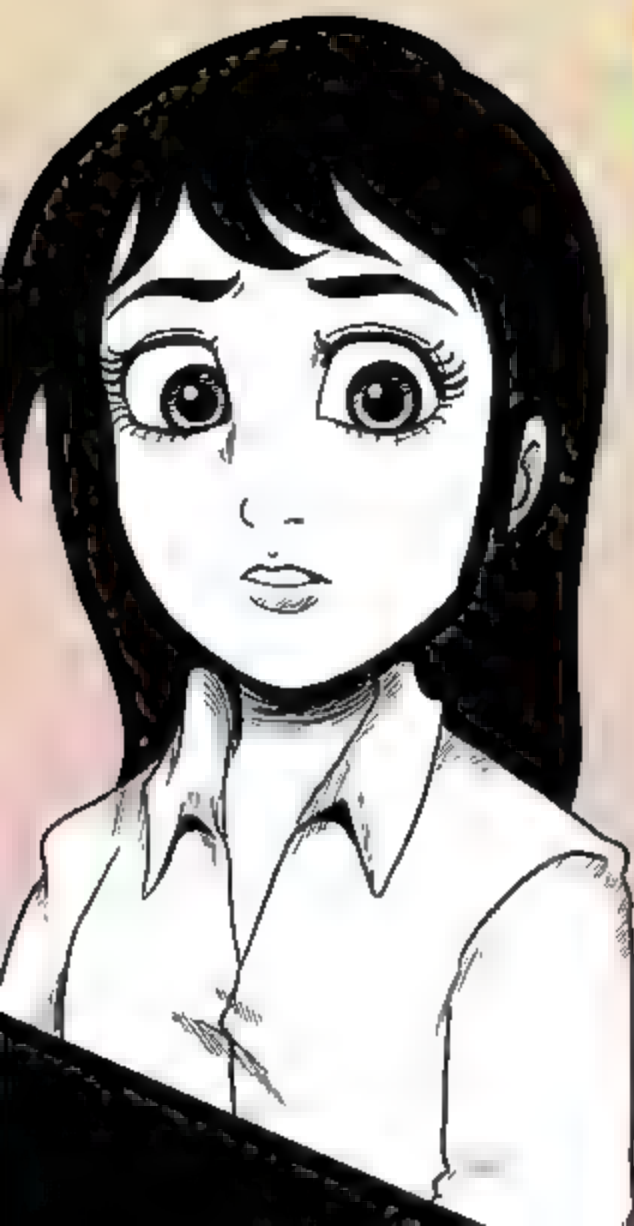


BUT THEN WHAT *WAS* IT
SUPPOSED TO BE A DRAWING
OF IF NOT THAT?



ASHLEY? YOU
OKAY?

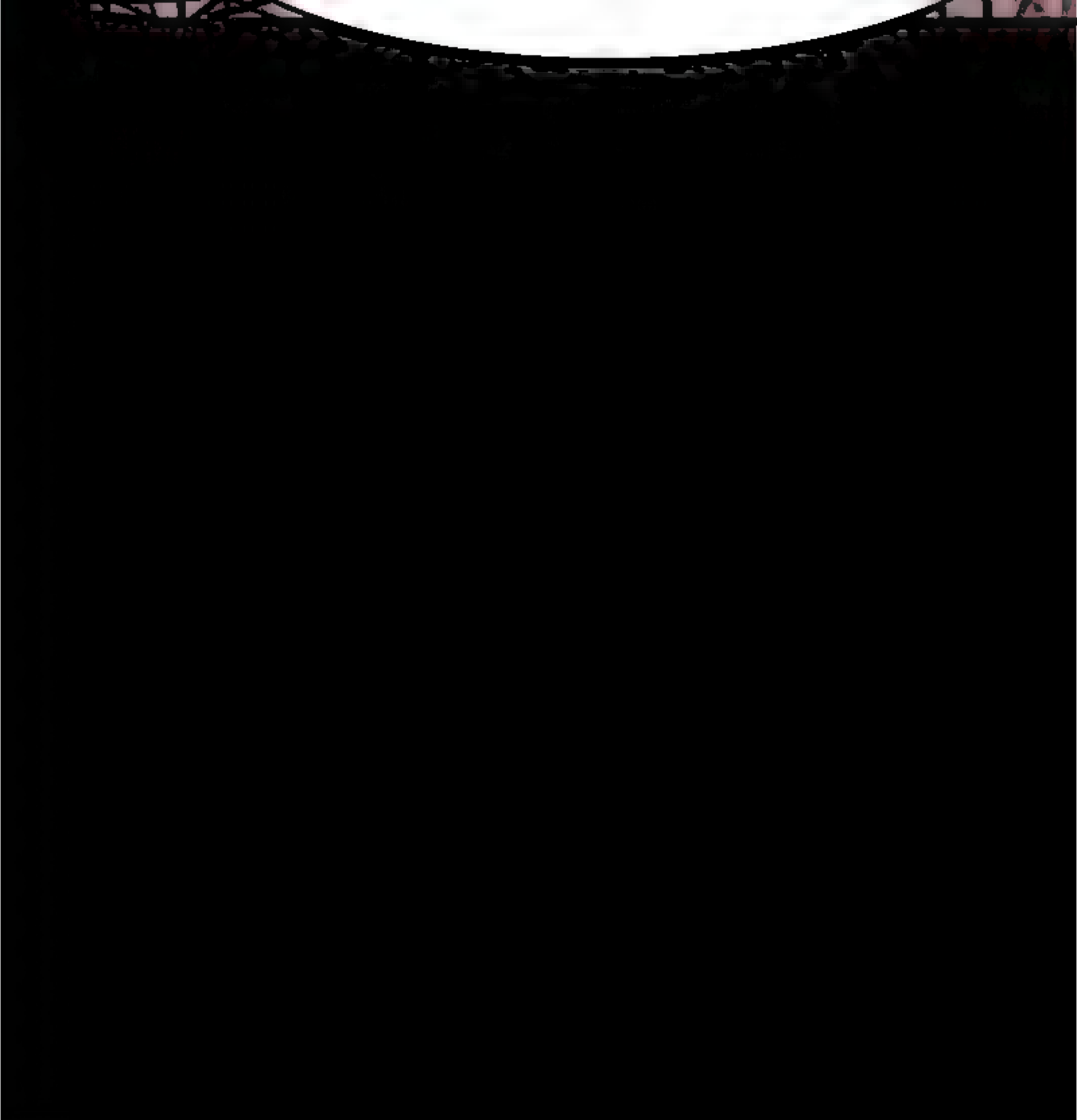
SCRATCH
SCRATCH

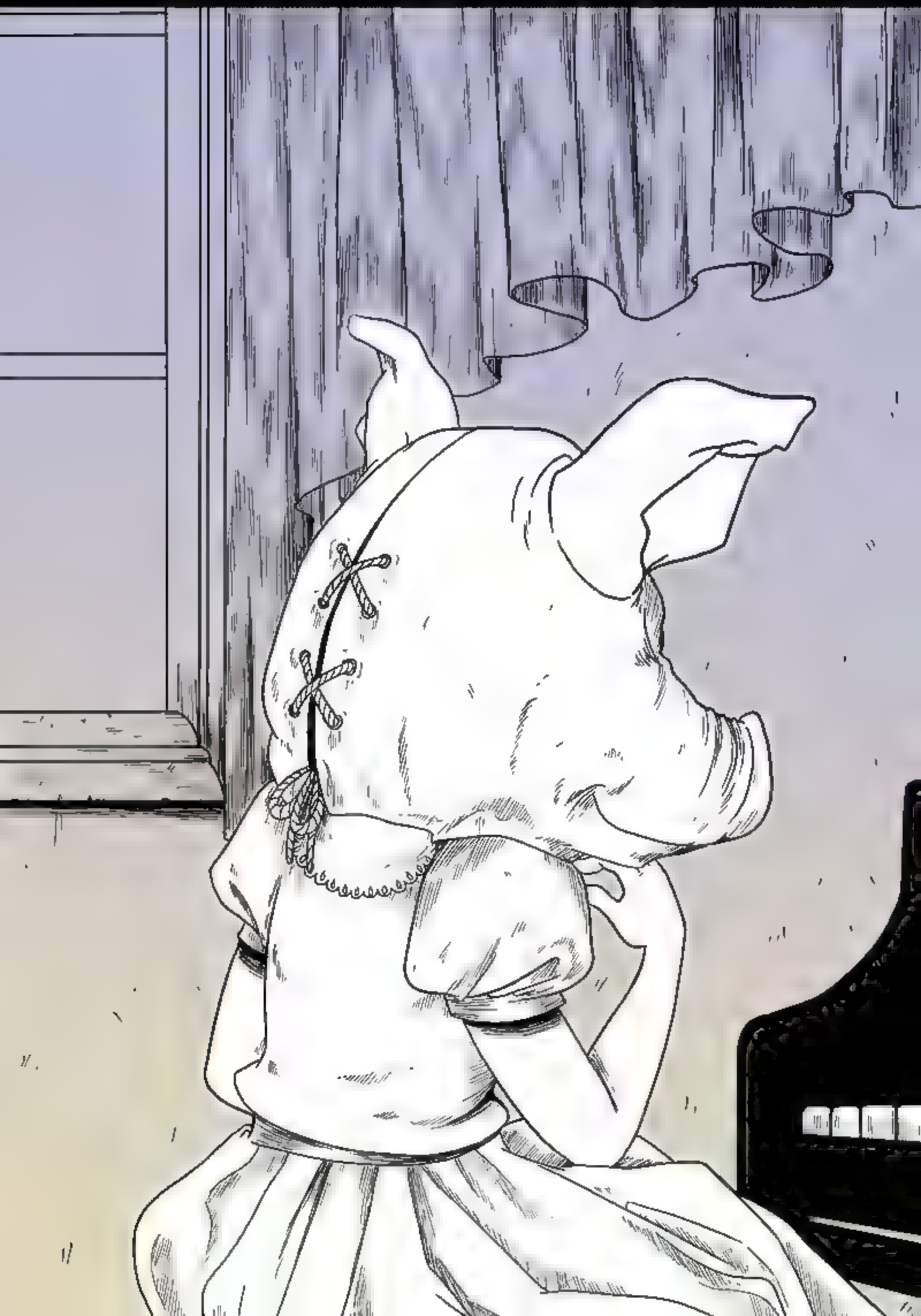


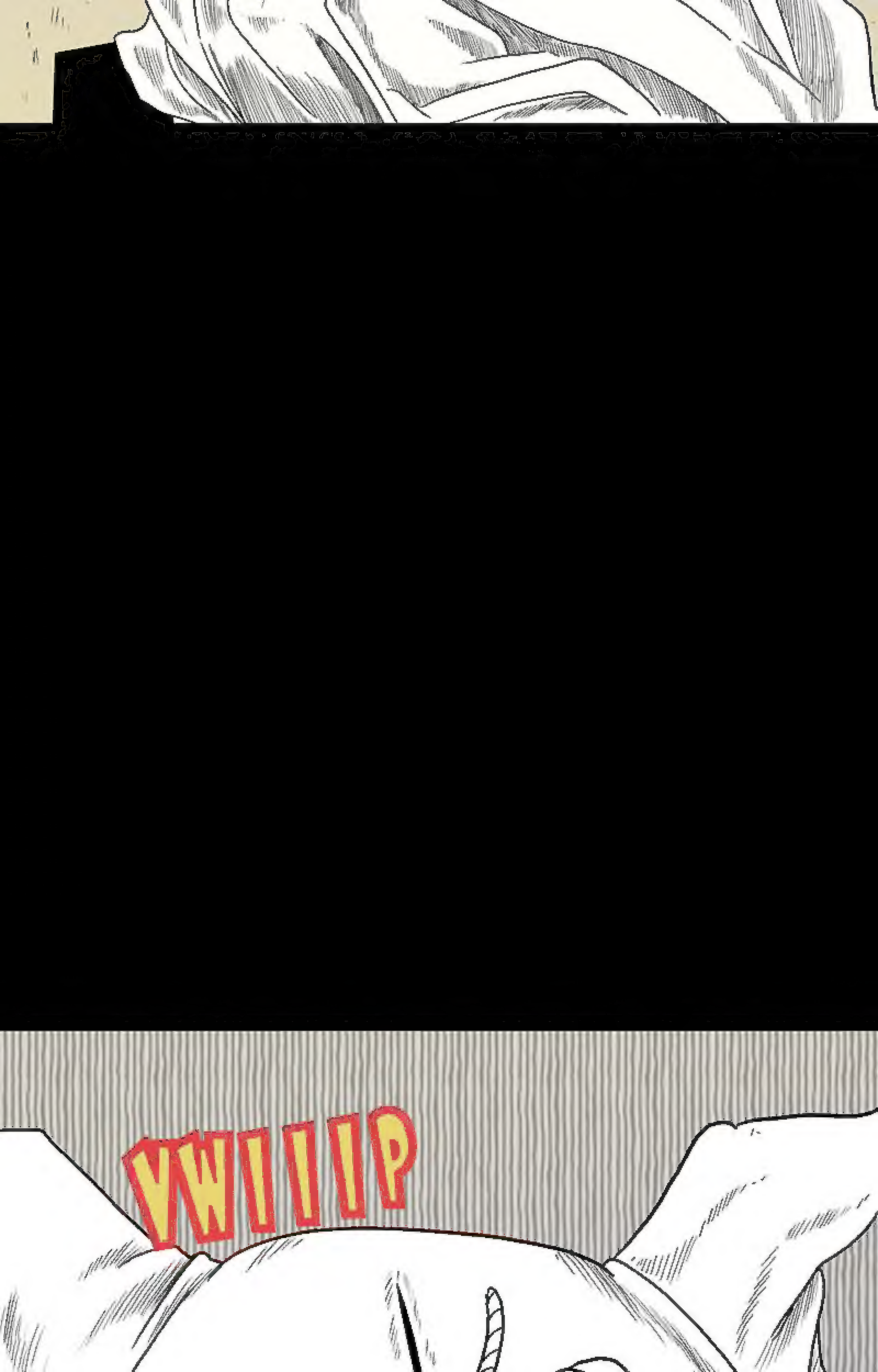


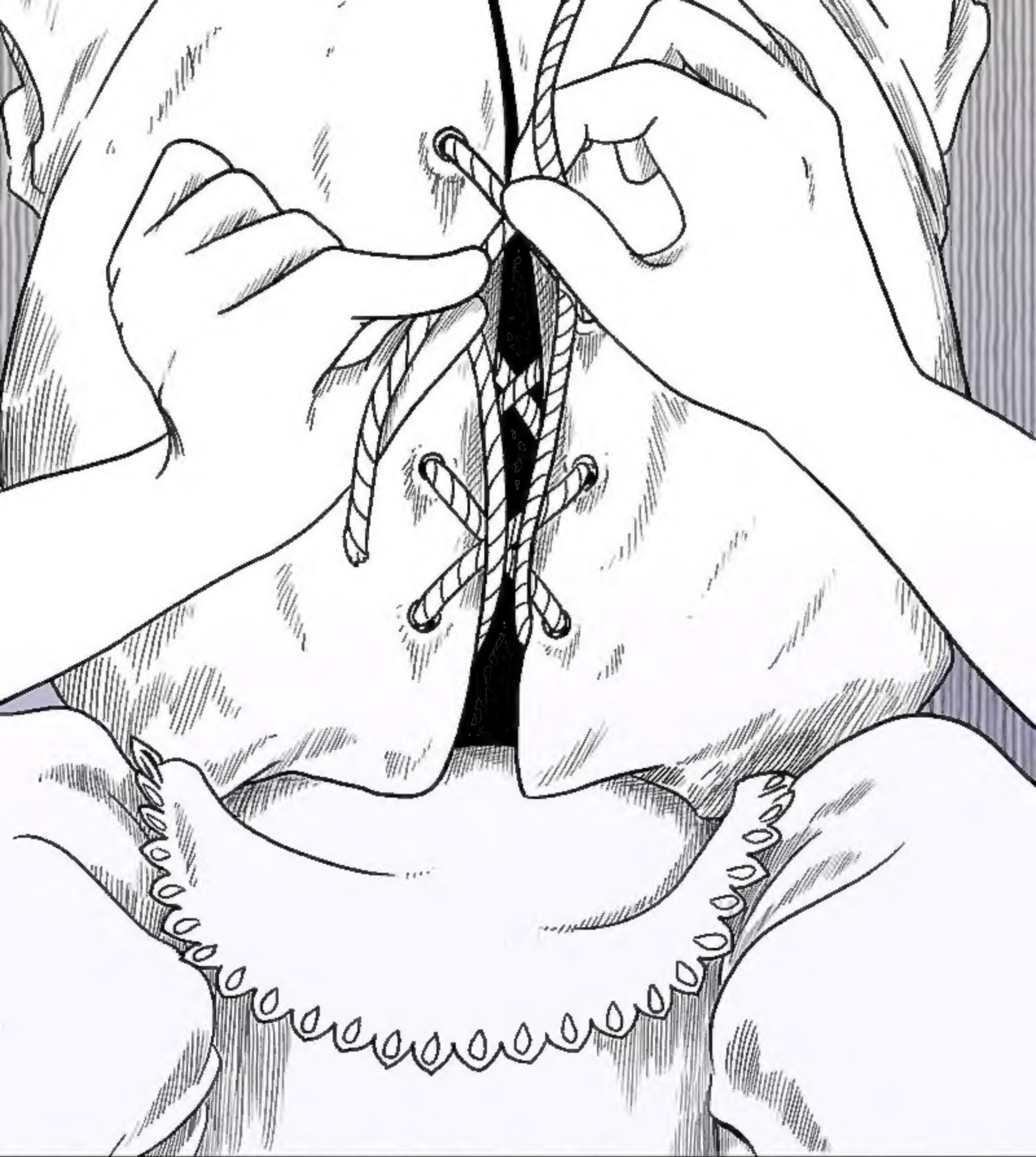
IS YOUR MASK BOTHERING
YOUR NECK?

DO YOU...DO YOU WANT
TO TAKE IT OFF FOR
A MINUTE?









GULP

